

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 AID-05 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/084 W

-----261122Z 052839 /23

R 260640Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7076

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

3.O. 11652/ N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, LT, RH, SF (KOTSOKOANE, JOSEPH R.L.)

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO MAPUTO CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: THE LESOTHO SPOKESMAN AT THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE, MINAG KOTSOKOANE, DESCRIBED HIS DIFFERENCES WITH U.S. CONCERN-
ING SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS AS DIFFERENCES OF METHODS AND
STRATEGY CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH THE RELEVANCE OF U.S.
CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE AND THE ROLE OF FORCE IN BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE
IN SOUTHERN AFRIC. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A TALK MAY 25, MINAG KOTSOKOANE PRAISED THE MAPUTO

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MEETING AS OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE THE STRUGGLE AGAINST SMITH
REGIME AND SOUTH AFRICA GOVERNMENT RE RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA,
RESPECTIVELY. HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT U.S. HAD INDEED
CHANGED ITS POLICY AND WAS NO LONGER SOFT IN ITS ATTITUDES ON
THE KEY SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. HE CALLED U.S. POSITION
A NOTICEABLE AND FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE WHICH MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES
APPRECIATED AND FOR WHICH THEY ARE GRATEFUL.

EM NEVERTHELESS, HE NOTED, THERE WERE STILL DIFFERENCES CONCERNING METHODS AND STRATEGY, BASICALLY CONCERNED WITH THE RELEVANCE OF THE U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE TO CURRENT SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND THE ROLE OF FORCE. REGARDING CIVIL RIGHTS, KOTSOKOANE RECALLED TO ME THAT U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE WAS THAT OF A MINORITY SEEKING TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY. THE STRUGGLE IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA IS THAT OF A MAJORITY SEEKING INDEPENDENCE. FURTHERMORE, THESE DIFFERENCES ARE ACCENTUATED BY THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CONSTITUTIONS OF U.S. AND SAG OR RHODESIA. U.S. CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR LEGAL RECOURSE TO ACHIEVE EQUAL RIGHTS; SAG CONSTITUTION ALLOWS NO RECOURSE FOR BLACKS TO ACHIEVE THEIR RIGHTS.

4. CONCERNING ARMED STRUGGLE, KOTSOKOANE SAID THE DIFFERENCES WERE MORE NUANCED. AMBASSADOR YOUNG URGES ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES BY NEGOTIATION, I.E., BY PEACEFUL MEANS. KOTSOKOANE SAID AFRICANS BELIEVE THEY HAVE TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING BY TALKING. HE SAID AFRICANS RECOGNIZED NECESSITY OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH THEY DON'T RULE OUT, BUT MEANSHILE, HE NOTED, PRIMIN VORSTER REFUSES TO TALK TO NUJOMA, SMITH IGNORES THE MOST PROMINENT NATIONALISTS, ETC. THE AFRICAN GROUP AT MAPUTO, HE SAID, WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT "THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES WERE TRYING TO WATER DOWN THE ARMS STRUGGLE", WHICH HE SAID WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING US "THIS FAR". THE ARMS STRUGGLE "MUST NOT BE RELAXED".

5. FINALLY, KOTSOKOANE SAID, MANY OF HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES WERE CONCERNED THAT THE CONTACT GROUP ON NAMIBIA WAS TRYING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO "CIRCUMVENT AND BYPASS THE UN AND ITS RESOLUTIONS". HE AFFIRMED THAT "THE PROBLEM IN NAMIBIA IS A UN PROBLEM"; HE SAID HE AGREED WITH THOSE WHO BELIEVE A SN REPRESENTATIVE AS PART OF THE CONTACT GROUP WAS ESSENTIAL. KOTSOKOANE SAID HE MADE THIS POINT TO U.S. SEC GEN WALDHEIM WHO AGREED WITH HIM.

6. COMMENT: KOTSOKOANE IS A FORMER GOL FOREIGN MINISTER WITH SOUTH AFRICAN BACKGROUND WHO IS KNOWN TO HOLD FIRM BUT WELL-INFORMED VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH HE IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MORE "PROGRESSIVE" MINISTERS, HIS SOMEWHAT RADICAL LINE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES IS WIDELY APPROVED AND VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED AT THE PRESENT TIME BY VAST MAJORITY OF THIS GOVERNMENT.
NORLAND

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